

STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1700 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, PHOENIX, AZ 85007

MAIN PHONE: 602-542-4331
FACSIMILE: 602-542-7601

August 14, 2006

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
United States Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

We write jointly to commend you for the recent personnel changes you have made in the Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") office here in Maricopa County, express our frustration with the previous lack of attention and resources dedicated by Homeland Security to Maricopa County, and offer constructive suggestions for ways we can jointly work to stem the flow of illegal immigration and the resulting crime from the human smuggling trade.

As you well know, Maricopa County has become a national transit hub for human smuggling rings that have taken advantage of federal policies that funnel illegal immigration traffic into Arizona. Each of us has spoken directly to you and your Department leadership about this problem, shared evidence of known smuggling operations, and offered to help in detaining, housing, and transporting illegal immigrants that our local law enforcement officials have apprehended. Under the prior leadership of the local ICE office, however, we received only initially positive statements that never materialized into any concrete action by your Department.

The previous Maricopa County ICE SAC was reluctant to share even basic information regarding apprehensions, border crossing deaths, drug confiscation statistics, or the number of agents and manhours available to combat the problem. He categorically refused to provide us this information. His hostility to state and local law enforcement, coupled with a "we know better than you" attitude, was counter to the mission of his agency and did serious damage to relations between our State and your Department. We are greatly relieved and encouraged that he is being replaced.

We are also concerned that ICE refuses to pick up and deport undocumented immigrants who have been convicted under Arizona's human smuggling statute. ICE's refusal to do so forces Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies to drive them to the border

and turn them over to Border Patrol. Forcing County Sheriff's deputies to do a job that should be performed by ICE is a major source of friction between the Sheriff's office and ICE.

We hope that the new leadership in the local ICE office will come with a renewed commitment to work cooperatively with state and local law enforcement. We also hope it will come with new resources, including the funding that Congress approved for state and local law enforcement through the Stonegarden program (but that remains stuck in a bureaucratic morass), and a lifting of the hiring freeze your Department imposed for ICE in this state.

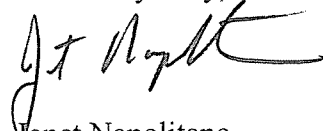
Securing our border requires more than on-the-border enforcement. It also requires concerted resources in transit hubs, such as Maricopa County, of our border states.

The smugglers know this, and it is important that your local ICE officials do too.

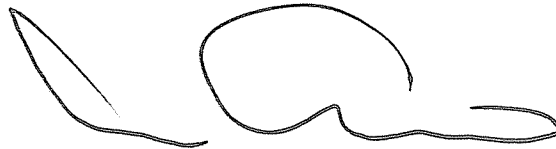
We commend President Bush for his recent actions to secure our Border and provide long overdue attention and resources to this problem. But the President's plan can work only with a comprehensive strategy for interior enforcement that must start and succeed in the major cities of border states like Arizona. This must be a federal responsibility and DHS must play a significant role. We strongly urge you to eliminate hiring freezes for ICE agents in Arizona and move quickly to double the number of agents in Maricopa County. We also ask you to join us in our call for more adequate funding of programs relating to the U.S.-Mexico border crisis as the administration develops the President's FY08 budget.

Finally, we implore you to see to it personally that the new ICE leadership here is instilled with the same cooperative, can-do spirit that we have seen from you when we have dealt with you directly. We greatly appreciate your quick understanding of our circumstances and security issues. ICE must now follow your lead and be given the personnel, resources and attention that this State requires to truly secure our Border.

Yours very truly,



Janet Napolitano
Governor



Joe Arpaio
Maricopa County Sheriff